

# The Commoner

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## The Profiteer Must Go

The producers and consumers are in no mood to permit the profiteer to continue his exploitation. He is skimming all the cream off the milk. He is not only doing injustice to those whom he is supposed to serve but he is threatening our whole industrial system.

The only test of wages is to be found in their purchasing power. What good does it do to double wages if prices rise still more rapidly? And it is true on the farm as well as in the factory, and adjustments move more slowly on the farm. One can not, when he plants, know the price of the commodity at harvest time. When he begins to feed a calf at weaning time he can not know what the price of beef will be three years afterwards when the calf is ready for the butcher. If the middlemen are permitted to exact an unreasonable toll men will be drawn from both farm and factory in trade, and the larger the middle class becomes the larger the burden thrown upon those who toil. The higher the per cent of profit allowed to those who buy and sell, the harder it will be to persuade the farmer's sons to remain on the farm—the more difficult it will be to induce the artisan's sons to follow their father's craft.

Eventually the end must come to this saturnalian feast of greed—"Why not now?" Justice demands that a limit be fixed to the middleman's profit: the very existence of our industrial system demands it. Why delay?

We limit the rate of interest that a banker can charge—and the bankers are honorable men. Why should a manufacturer, wholesaler, or a merchant be allowed to charge without limit?

We need a usury law for business as well as for banking. The UNNECESSARY middleman should be ELIMINATED—the USEFUL middleman should be COMPELLED to serve at a REASONABLE rate. Justice must not wait.

W. J. BRYAN.

### MUSGROVE'S GREAT CAMPAIGN

Mr. Musgrove, the prohibition candidate against Senator Underwood, made a splendid race against great odds. To have reduced the Underwood majority from 40,000 (at the former election) to 1,800 is in itself a victory. Congratulations. Mr. Musgrove, you have robbed Mr. Underwood's election of any value to the wets. He is pledged against any reopening, and by emphasizing prohibition as an issue you contributed materially to the defeat of ex-Governor O'Neal.

### THE PEOPLE'S SIDE OPEN

The Republican candidates and platform are driving so near the Wall street side of the road that we will have to drive on the people's side if we want to go around them—and we do.

### An IMPORTANT CHANGE

The Republican platform, as reported by the sub-committee, urged Republican governors, in states that have not yet ratified, to call special sessions of their legislatures. The platform as adopted omitted the reference to the governors and urged the legislators to ratify. Quite an important change, which the suffragists will not fail to notice. The governors of Connecticut and Vermont can continue to obstruct ratification.

### TOO MUCH TERRITORY

The Cincinnati brewers are so elated in making Cox governor of Ohio that they seem to THINK they can make him president, but they forget two things; first, that the nation is bigger than Ohio and, second, that the deception that they practiced has been exposed and can not be repeated. They are taking in too much territory and besides they can no longer work under the cover of darkness.

### NO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

The Republican platform has one shining omission—it does NOT indorse universal compulsory military training. That would seem to put an end to the ambitious plan for training all the young men in the United States in the art of taking human life. Peace had at least one victory in the convention.

### A WARNING

If any Democratic candidate with rich friends is thinking of making a money campaign, the fate of General Wood and Governor Lowden ought to be a warning. This is a poor man's year—neither Harding or Coolidge is rich. Our candidate must run on his merits, not on anyone's pocketbook.

### KENYON'S SERVICE

Kenyon ought to have been made the Republican candidate in return for service rendered by his investigating committee. But the bosses would not honor him even with the vice-presidency. But he strengthened his party and improved its chances.

## The Democratic Platform

No one is in position to announce in advance the subjects that will be treated in the Democratic platform to be written at San Francisco, but I venture to submit an outline with the reasons that lead me to believe that the subjects mentioned will receive consideration.

First—The national administration will be endorsed and the splendid economic reforms secured will be enumerated and emphasized. They constitute an unparalleled record of accomplishment. The conduct of the war will be praised. Mistakes of course were made, but they were overshadowed by colossal achievements that astounded Europe, and even astounded ourselves.

Second—The treaty will present an issue. The party stood together in favor of ratification without reservations, as long as that seemed possible. When it was demonstrated that ratification without reservations was impossible, the Democratic Senators divided into 2 groups—the members of one group, 23 in number, more interested in the treaty and the League of Nations than in the phraseology of the reservations, joined with 34 Republicans to secure ratification with reservations, while 20 Democrats, preferring defeat of the treaty and the League of Nations, or at least, delay, to acceptance of the proposed reservations, joined 17 irreconcilable foes of the treaty to prevent ratification. Unless a compromise is reached before June 28, the convention will endorse the course pursued by the 23, or the course pursued by the 20. The overwhelming opposition to the policy of ratification without reservations, as shown by the vote at the primaries, will probably defeat any effort to make the treaty an issue in the campaign. An easy way out is to pledge the party to an amendment to the constitution providing for ratification of treaties by a MAJORITY vote. The Republicans would undoubtedly support such an amendment, and, both parties accepting it, the Senate could ratify the treaty with reservations already agreed upon, and take it out of the campaign, leaving any needed changes to be made afterward in the League.

Third—In this connection, it is likely that the convention will declare in favor of a cloture rule in the Senate enabling a majority to close debate and proceed to a vote. It was a platform declaration by the Democratic convention of 1908 that put an end to Cannonism in the House of Representatives, and it is time to take another step toward democracy.

Fourth—The convention is quite sure to declare against universal compulsory military training. The Democratic caucus in the House condemned it by a vote of 106 to 17, and a poll of the Senate showed nearly as large a percentage of the Democrats of that body against it. The demand for economy, growing more and

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